

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE
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Mrs. William L. Swallen
Memorial Minute

Adopted by the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions
January 21, 1946

In Florida, where Mrs. William L. Swallen received her Home Call on December 31, 1945, there is a tree so lavish with its flaming glory that the branches of neighboring trees are beautified with the flowers of the "Royal Poinciana." So close to her Lord did Mrs. Swallen live that throughout her long years she shed His beauty on friends and co-workers.

Mrs. Swallen was born Sallie Willison on a farm near Johnstown, Ohio, August 16, 1863, and during student days at Ada Normal School and Ohio Wesleyan University, she early manifested the radiant Christian zeal which was to be so characteristic of all her years of fruitful service, forty-eight of which were spent in Korea, whither she went shortly after her marriage to the Rev. William L. Swallen in 1892.

During the early years of their ministry in Korea God blessed the home of Dr. and Mrs. Swallen with five children; but even while the children were young Mrs. Swallen managed to give a considerable portion of her time to Bible teaching. To this work she brought dedicated talents, combining a rare love of the Word with innate skill as a teacher. It was in her Bible classes for women that the course of study was inaugurated which later Dr. Swallen elaborated into the "Correspondence Course of Bible Study" so used of God throughout the whole country.

In the report of her work made in August 1900 at the close of their first term of service, having told of her Sunday School class of thirty-six young mothers, the teachers' training class she led in her home, the Wednesday afternoon Bible study group of forty women, the April class of intensive study for a full week for women from the country districts, Mrs. Swallen wrote. "I feel I have learned only my first lesson in this language and in the work.....and trust we may be permitted to do more for our Master in the future." How fully that faith^{was} justified is succinctly told by a loved co-worker, Dr. Samuel A. Moffett, in an article commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of Dr. and Mrs. Swallen's service in the Korea Mission: "Dr. and Mrs. Swallen have done a monumental work in the faithful, persistent cultivation of a field which (in 1918) comprises nearly one-third of the Christian constituency of Pyengyang station, reporting over 60 churches with more than 6000 members.....Mrs. Swallen has had special oversight of the Bible classes, there having been held 148 of these for men and women this last year with an attendance totalling over 9000. Many of these classes she has conducted personally, having proved herself almost as good an itinerator as her husband since the children have grown up."

Another outstanding type of missionary service rendered by Mrs. Swallen was the securing of pledges for "volunteer preaching." This custom in the field of evangelism was the precursor of Dr. Frank Laubach's "Everyone teach one" in the field of literacy. In 1914, the year in which so many lights were "going out all over Europe," Mrs. Swallen's annual report, having made note that a Bible class for women had been held "in every church, no matter how weak or how small," continues, "Pledges for volunteer preaching by the women were taken up at each of these local classes. Six hundred six women pledged three thousand sixty-seven days, an amount equal to eight years, six months, and one week of time by one person." If, as has been said, "The work of an institution is but the lengthened shadow of the founder," then these faithful Korean bearers of the Good News of Salvation may be likened to an ever swelling chorus of those who proclaim the gospel message.

In November of 1940, after forty-eight years in Korea, Dr. and Mrs. Swallen returned to the United States and made their home in St. Petersburg, Florida. Here, as in the home in Korea, a beautiful hospitality was extended to a host of friends and neighbors, even after waning strength kept Mrs. Swallen from service outside the home. On New Year's Day of 1943 a fall had resulted in a fractured hip but she made a most remarkable recovery, and with the assistance of her devoted husband and daughters was about the home almost to the last.

Mrs. Swallen's letters, lips and life were always so full of praise to the one she so deeply loved and served with such devotion that it is natural to end this memorial minute on such a note of triumph. The "treading of God's voice" to her always seemed to end in the glad response of praise; "This year we have reached 'grace upon grace' and we praise Him for His goodness." At the funeral service a friend sang one of Mrs. Swallen's favorite hymns, "Face to Face"; and the Friend's promise of the prepared place for His own was read. Mrs. Swallen, after one day in quiet sleep, had peacefully gone to her welcome in the Father's house of many mansions.

The members of the Board of Foreign Missions record their thanks to God for this life signally used to the glory of God in the extension of His Church in Korea; and likewise extend their sympathy to Dr. Swallen and all the members of the family, and to the many friends who will cherish the memory of Sallie Willison Swallen.

which they knew nothing. He was a silver tongued orator and for two hours waged a contest of words with his antagonists and put them to rout. Finally they flew at him with their fists but others in the room came to his rescue.

Of all the places visited on these trips, Mr. Swallen found the group of believers at Hamheung the most promising and desired to move his family there. Here too, there was persecution for a time. A proclamation purporting to come from the officials, ordered the Christians to leave town by a certain day. The matter was investigated and the governor came to the defence of the Christians.

As in Antioch of old so in Hamheung, the unbelievers made fun of the Christians. When they saw a Christian coming along the street they would say, "Jesus is coming" or "Jesus is passing by." They also hurled at the Christians many vile epithets. But today the church there is probably the largest on the east coast.

Withdrawal from Wonsan

Within three years after the Rev. Wm. J. McKenzie's lamented death in Sorai, the first group of five Canadian Presbyterian missionaries arrived. Two of these five, the Rev. Robert Grierson, M. D. and the Rev. D. M. McRae, D. D. are still in service (1934). It is interesting that so many of the earlier missionaries including Drs. Gale, Hardie, Avison, Hall (of the M. E. Mission), and Rev. M. C. Fenwick (Independent) were Canadians. All of these except Drs. Avison and Hall, worked in Wonsan. It seemed natural that in dividing the territory between the missions, the east coast should be assigned to the Canadians. This was done in 1898. In November of that year, our Mission reported fourteen places in the Wonsan field where there were Christians. About the same time also, the M. E. Mission turned over its work in Wonsan to the M. E. South Mission. The Gales were transferred to Seoul and the Swallens to Pyengyang where the two families spent their many remaining years of missionary service.

congregation began to raise money for a new church building. When they had collected twenty two dollars (45 yen), they formulated a plan for loaning it out at fifty percent interest which was commonly done in Korea in those days. The pastor, Mr. Swallen and his wife, advised against this as it was contrary to the teaching of the Scriptures on usury. They advised instead that the money be put in the bank at a lower rate of interest or that it be invested in a field. But the church people felt that the money was theirs and carried it off to do as they pleased, although hours had been spent in conference and prayer. Mr. and Mrs. Swallen fasted and prayed for two days. On the following Sunday, Mr. Swallen preached on the sovereignty of God, Christian fidelity, and obedience to the constituted authority of the church. At the close of the service he announced that someone had taken the Lord's money and that until those who took it repented and brought it back, there would be no church services. One Sunday passed without service, but before the next Sunday, the male members of the congregation came to Mr. Swallen's study one by one and in tears confessed their sin. The result was a new spirit of humility and sincerity in the church. Later it was agreed to buy a small reed field. The reeds could be sold each year and thus interest on the investment realized. In a few years when the right of way for the Seoul-Wonsan railway was purchased the value of this field increased and it was sold for one thousand dollars.

Another problem arose in the church in regard to ancestor worship. Mr. Gale sent out a questionnaire to some of the local Christians and asked them to write their opinions. Their unanimous opinion was that "ancestor worship is contrary to the teaching of the New Testament" and that "offering sacrifice is foolishness."⁴ This question has always vexed the Korean Church and we believe these early Wonsan Christians decided it rightly.

Country Evangelistic Work

Mr. Swallen was very active in making itinerating trips to the outlying districts. He made frequent trips to Hamheung, and traveled as far north as Kyungsang, the capital of the northern province. On two trips to Hamheung in December, 1896, and in April, 1897, he reports little interest in the Gospel on the first trip, but that on the second trip he was "almost worn out trying to give the Gospel to those who came."⁵

Soon believers were reported at Pookchung, Hongwon, Hamheung, Tanchun, and other places. Among a dozen men who were meeting regularly on Sundays in Hamheung one of them, Mr. Cha Ul Yung, soon became a very zealous evangelist. He gave himself to prayer and to the study of the Word. Within a year after his conversion and before he was baptized, he took a supply of tracts and Scripture portions and went into the mountains of the far north to Kapsan to preach, and to seek his brother that he might lead him to Christ. After some months when he returned he not only had seen his brother become a Christian but had established groups of believers at several places along the way. Dr. Swallen refers to Mr. Cha as "a great preacher who won many to the Lord." Later he became an elder and a student in the theological seminary but died before graduation.

While Mr. Swallen was spending two weeks at Tanchun, preaching, selling Scriptures, and giving out tracts, he encountered opposition from two young men who were opposed to the new religion because it forbade ancestor worship. They threatened to drive the missionaries out of town. At first Mr. Swallen tried to reason with the young men and show them the truth, but they would not listen, and he gave up in despair. Then unexpectedly a young man in the group came to the defense of the Gospel. Like Apollos, he was a powerful defender of the truth, although he did not know much about the Gospel as yet. He argued that the two young men should not denounce that about

consider the most beautiful, most wealthy, and apparently the most prosperous region of Korea, and we feel the importance of opening work here as soon as the work already begun has proper oversight, and places more imperatively demanding men, are supplied."³

Accordingly both our own and the M. E. Mission located missionaries in Wonsan in 1892. Rev. R. A. Hardie, M. D. and Rev. M. C. Fenwick, representing independent missions, also located in Wonsan, where Mr. Fenwick still resides (1934). The Gales moved to Wonsan in 1892 and the Swalens in 1894. It is recorded that Mrs. Gale was the first Western woman to reside in Wonsan, while in the spring of 1893, Mrs. McGill of the M. E. Mission, was the first foreign woman to make the overland trip from Seoul to Wonsan.

Property for the Presbyterian station compound was bought on the spur of the hill which commanded a superb view of the bay. The house in which the Gales lived is now occupied by Rev. Mr. Cho, one of the leaders in young people's work in the Presbyterian Church of Korea. Besides the two residences, there was built a little chapel on the compound.

At this time Mr. Gale was busy on his Korean-English Dictionary. He helped in the local church and carried on evangelistic work in the city and nearby districts. In 1896 the Gale family left for Japan to make arrangements for the publication of the dictionary and went on to America on furlough, returning in 1898.

The Local Church

The first baptismal service was held on August 5, 1894, when four women were baptized. The station report for that year states that nine hundred women had been seen and talked to personally. In 1896 the local church was reported to have thirty four baptized members, twenty four inquirers, and an average attendance of eighty. The little chapel on the mission compound soon became too small and the

3. WONSAN

The Government-General publications describe Wonsan as "the finest harbor on the east coast and one of the leading ports of the peninsula." It was opened as a treaty port to Japan in 1880 under the name of Gensan (or Yuensan), and three years later (Nov. 3, 1883), it was opened to other countries as well. In 1898, one of the missionaries estimated its population at "perhaps fifteen thousand." In 1932 its population was 42,453 of whom 9511 were Japanese. The Korean name of the city and harbor is Wonsan (Chief Mountain).

As to its historical associations, the Rev. H. G. Appenzeller in 1898 wrote, "From this neighborhood sprang the kings of ancient Korai, and again it gave birth to the reigning house of Chosen. About twenty miles from Wonsan is the large monastery, called Sak-wang-sa, which was erected by the first king of Chosen on the spot where five hundred years ago, he received the divine message to rule, that has descended upon his progeny to this day." He also says that "The Imjin river (which flows past Songdo) has its source near the top of the No Inichi (Old Man's Pass), ten miles from Wonsan."¹

In a recent publication by the United Church of Canada, the city is described as follows, "Wonsan was the strategic treaty port and centre of a great province on this (east) coast, for here were steamers to connect it with Japan and China, Russia and all Korean ports. Incidentally, it has rare beauty, with billowing mountains pushing toward the sea, its glorious harbor holding room for the navies of the world, and islands dotting the foreground of the wide sea-view."²

Not only our own Mission but other missions saw the importance of occupying Wonsan as soon as possible. The Rev. S. A. Moffett after his trip with Mr. Gale, returning from Manchuria through Wonsan in 1891, wrote in his report, "In this region (Wonsan) we found what we

time was in Korea as secretary to Yuan Shi Kai, Chinese Resident-General. The "sycee" could be exchanged for "cash."

Opening of the Station

In October, 1893, Mr. Moffett moved to Pyengyang and occupied alone for six months, the house inside the East Gate that Mr. Han had purchased. His next door neighbor was a Korean scholar who once when drunk came in to kill the "foreign devil" but was prevented from doing so by Mr. Moffett's helper, and his cook.

Mr. Moffett at once organized a class of twenty two catechumens, among whom was a man from Anak, another from Syenchun, another who had received a Chinese Gospel from Mr. Thomas in 1866, and another who had been a drunken inn keeper but who was thoroughly converted and proved to be a valued helper for thirty years in all the building and business operations of the station. This man, Choi Cho-si, was an elder for many years and was well known in the Christian church in the north. He died in 1931. Out of this class, seven men were baptized on Jan. 8, 1894, and the Lord's Supper was administered in Pyengyang for the first time.

The first believer in Pyengyang, however, was not one of these seven, but a young man, Kim Chong Sup. When challenged by Mr. Moffett to read the Bible and see whether or not it is the Word of God, he did so, studied it, came to hear the Gospel message, believed a year later, and after a period of further study, was baptized. He became the first elder in Pyengyang, the first evangelist in the hospital, and the first candidate for the ministry. Another, "not of the seven," a boy of sixteen, took tracts home to his mother, Yi-Sie Sin-haing, who became the first woman believer in Pyengyang, and for twenty five years the president of the Women's Missionary Society, while her son became an elder in the church. During these months the first women came to the church service and sat in a dark

the fall of 1891, Mr. Moffett again visited Pyengyang and Euiju in company with Hugh Brown, M. D. In Pyengyang four catechumens were received and seven in villages outside. In 1892, Mr. Moffett made three trips to Pyengyang and Euiju, one in company with C. C. Vinton, M. D. In Euiju he baptized Mr. Han mentioned above and moved him to Pyengyang, having decided on Pyengyang as the location of the new station.

The Rev. Graham Lee arrived in September, 1892, and was appointed as Mr. Moffett's colleague in opening the new station. Together they went to Pyengyang in February, 1893, and through Mr. Han bought a field where the Women's Bible Institute building now is. But the Korean people made trouble at once and the city officials compelled Mr. Han to return the property. Soon afterwards he was able to buy instead, a large Korean house inside the East Gate. On this visit, as Messrs. Moffett and Lee walked down West Gate Street past the official buildings, they were stoned by the police, one of whom, Yi Kui Poong, afterwards became a Christian and Mr. Hunt's cook, and finally one of the first seven Koreans to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry. He and his wife became the first missionaries to be sent out by the Korean Presbyterian Church, going to the island of Quelpart. At this time also the magistrate ordered the people to drive out the foreigners. A mob of two or three hundred collected. Mr. Moffett invited the three spokesmen to come in and talk things over. The spokesmen said that their own lives were in danger unless the missionaries would leave which they agreed to do, intending to go on to Euiju. But on the first day out, Mr. Lee was taken sick of dysentery and instead of going to Euiju, they hurried overland to the Gales in Wonsan. While Mr. Lee was convalescing in Wonsan, Mr. Moffett took the "pony express" to Seoul, taking one or two extra ponies to carry the money (copper "cash"). Later the missionaries were able to buy silver "sycee" (lump silver) from Tang Shao Yee who afterwards became a great statesman of China but who at that

COMPLETE ROLL OF THE MISSION

A. Regular Members.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Arrival in Korea</i>	<i>Re-Resigned Rt-Retired De-Deceased</i>
1.	Horace N. Allen, M.D.	Sept. 20, 1884	Re-July 9, 1890
2.	Mrs. H. N. Allen (Frances Messenger)	Oct. 26, 1884	Re July 9, 1890
3.	Rev. H. G. Underwood	Apr. 5, 1885	De Oct. 12, 1916
4.	J. W. Heron, M.D.	June 21, 1885	De July 26, 1890
5.	Mrs. J. W. Heron (Hattie Gibson) (Mrs. J. S. Gale)	June 21, 1885	De Mar. 28, 1908
6.	Miss Annie Ellers (Mrs. D. A. Bunker)	July 4, 1886	Re-July 5, 1887
7.	Miss Lillias Horton, M.D. (Mrs. H. G. Underwood)	Mar. 27, 1888	De Oct. 29, 1921
8.	Miss Mary Hayden (Mrs. D. L. Gifford)	Sept. 29, 1888	De-May 5, 1900
9.	Rev. D. L. Gifford	Oct. 27, 1888	De-Apr. 10, 1900
10.	Charles Power, M.D.	Fall , 1888	Re-July 15, 1889
11.	Rev. James S. Gale (Joined Mission, 1891)	Dec. 16, 1888	Rt -Aug. 31, 1928
12.	Rev. William Gardner	June? , 1889	Re Fall , 1889
13.	Miss Sarah Gardner	Feb. , 1889	Re Fall , 1889
14.	Rev. S. A. Moffett	Jan. 25, 1890	Rt Jan. 25, 1934
15.	Miss Susan A. Doty (Mrs. F. S. Miller)	Jan. 25, 1890	De-Mar. 31, 1931
16.	Rev. William M. Baird, Sr.	Feb. 2, 1891	De-Nov. 28, 1931
17.	Mrs. W. M. Baird (Annie L. Adams)	Feb. 2, 1891	De June 9, 1916
18.	Hugh Brown, M.D.	Dec. 8, 1891	Re-Mar. 18, 1895
19.	Mrs. Hugh Brown (Fannie Hurd, M.D.)	Dec. 8, 1891	Re-Mar. 18, 1895
20.	C. C. Vinton, M.D.	Apr. 3, 1891	Re Dec. 16, 1907
21.	Mrs. C. C. Vinton (Letitia Coulter)	Apr. 3, 1891	De Dec 4, 1903
22.	Miss Victoria C. Arbuckle	Sept. 21, 1891	Re May 18, 1896
23.	Rev. Graham Lee	Sept. 21, 1892	Re Apr. 1, 1912
24.	Rev. S. F. Moore	Sept. 21, 1892	De-Dec. 22, 1906
25.	Mrs. S. F. Moore (Rose Ely)	Sept. 21, 1892	Re Nov. 18, 1907
26.	Rev. W. L. Swallen	Nov. 15, 1892	Rt Mar. 24, 1932
27.	Mrs. W. L. Swallen (Sallie Willison)	Nov. 15, 1892	Rt Mar. 24, 1932
28.	Rev. F. S. Miller	Nov. 15, 1892	
29.	Mrs. F. S. Miller (Anna Reinecke)	Nov. 15, 1892	De June 13, 1903
30.	Miss Ellen Strong	Nov. , 1892	Re-May 6, 1901
31.	O. R. Avison M.D.	July 16, 1893	Rt June 30, 1932
32.	Mrs. O. R. Avison (Jennie Barnes)	July 16, 1893	Rt June 30, 1932
33.	C. H. Irvin, M.D.	Nov. 9, 1893	Re-Apr. 1, 1911
34.	Mrs. C. H. Irvin (Bertha Kimmerer)	Nov. 9, 1893	Re-Apr. 1, 1911
35.	Mrs. Graham Lee (Blanch Webb)	May 6, 1894	Re Apr. 1, 1912
36.	Miss Anna Jacobson, R. N.	Apr. 6, 1895	De Jan. 20, 1897

Dr. William N. Blair's memories of Dr. William L. Swallen

Olivette Swallen has written asking me to send her some of my memories of her parents. Although I cannot attempt to write a booklet of my Happy Memories of all my dear Pyeng Yang friends and fellow-missionaries, as much as I would like to do so, I shall try to comply with Olivette's request because my heart compels me to do so.

My acquaintance with Dr. Swallen began 'way back in 1900 when I was a Senior at McCormick Seminary in Chicago. Dr. Swallen, then on his first furlough from Korea, made a fine address one day to the students and faculty of the Seminary. I heard him with interest. He was a good speaker with interesting things to tell us, and he put his heart into his address as he always did in everything he did. In conclusion he earnestly appealed to us in the graduating class to come out to Korea and help them in "this day of great opportunity." I was deeply moved but said to myself, "I would like to go, but that's not for me." I seemed to have little linguistic ability and did not really enjoy studying Latin or Greek in college, or Hebrew or Greek in Seminary. So I said to myself, "Surely if God wanted me to be a foreign missionary He would have given me more ability in language study than I have had." With only a brief word of appreciation to our guest speaker I went to my room and started to prepare for the morrow's lessons. Perhaps an hour later somebody knocked at my door. Without rising I called "Come in. Come in." Who should enter but our tall, reddish-whiskered speaker from Korea. He came right over to me and said, "Blair, why don't you come out to Korea? We need you. Your classmates have told me about you." Evidently it was easier for them to recommend a classmate than to volunteer themselves. "Why, Dr. Swallen," I replied, "As far as the hardships are concerned I think I would rather like to go, but that language - I know I could never learn it." I knew the Korean language was a most complicated language, something like Chinese.

"What makes you say that?" he answered. "Have you failed in Latin, or Greek, or Hebrew?" "No," I said. "I have managed to pass somehow, but I haven't enjoyed it." "Well," he said, "I failed in Hebrew in Seminary, and I have learned to talk fairly well in Korean. I know you can, too." We talked for quite a while, but he failed to convince me. For days afterward I could not get the matter out of my mind, or conscience.

One thing was clear to me, - I couldn't afford to make the mistake of staying in America if God really wanted me to be a foreign missionary. I asked Him to guide me. Yet I realized it would be hard for God to guide a man who just stood still. If he went forward God could surely stop him or turn him aside if He wanted to. After days of earnest thought I wrote a letter to the girl in Kansas who had promised to share my life with me.

"Edith," I wrote, "I am considering a little volunteering to go to the foreign field. What do you think of it?" I confess that I had a sneaky hope she would refuse to go so I would get out of it. But she replied at once, "I am so glad! For years I have wanted to be a foreign missionary." I felt cornered. I knew Edith was especially good in languages, and had no doubt she would make a fine missionary, as she certainly did.

Finally I decided to offer to go, and let the New York Presbyterian Board and the Lord decide the question for me. I offered to go to India, or Korea. The answer came back startlingly quick, - "Yes," - they would be glad to appoint me to Korea and send me and my finance to the field, in September that year.

So it was settled, and I was relieved, if not jubilant about it.

That is ~~was~~ why we went to Korea in Sept. 1901. And that is why I have always held Dr. Swallen largely responsible and have been grateful to him for calling me. And I have been increasingly grateful over the years that we were sent to Korea, the land of outstanding promise and opportunity for the past 50 years. And I am especially grateful that we were appointed to live and work in North Korea, in the city of Pyeng Yang, the place chosen of God for the Great Revival and for wonderful Blessing.

As I look back on it now I am glad to feel that I did not covet the best field but that God clearly led me and has clearly blessed me. Most missionaries are in time moved from one place to another. Dr. Swallen was moved from Wonsan to Pyeng Yang but never moved from there, and I was never moved from Pyeng Yang. God must have let me stay in Pyeng Yang because He wanted me there. As for the language study, -it wasn't nearly as hard as I had feared. God gave me and Edith a good language teacher who fairly prayed the language into us. And then Dr. Swallen as a wonderful neighbor and friend continually helped us. He was especially interested in helping a new missionary learn to speak Korean, and had prepared for the first fine series of lessons, - mostly simple sentences closely connected, with only one new word in each sentence. He was correct in believing that the important thing, especially at first, was not the accumulation of a big vocabulary but the learning of Korean idioms, and learning to speak -not in words but in sentences, with the swing and stress used by the Koreans, in every day conversations. It was really fun to study Korean under Dr. Swallen's direction. While I was never a brilliant speaker in Korean, nor mastered a very large vocabulary, Dr. Swallen's method helped me get useful, much-needed everyday Korean surprisingly rapidly. Before 6 months I was able to go the country alone and even to try to talk a little. The Koreans were all so eager to help. And I was not afraid to ask for help if I could not find the right word in the middle of a talk. But I didn't stop for help when I tried to pray in public but I don't think God would have been offended by my mistakes.

I would go to the country ~~it~~ with my teacher for a week, perhaps, and was always impressed on my return to see how much Edith had learned while I was gone. I don't think she deserves too much credit because she was really brilliant in languages, - and I might add, in everything. Also, she had a separate language teacher. Nothing is more important than for a new missionary to make the best possible progress in the language the first year in Korea. I should report here that Dr. Swallen took me with him to his country district - the Western Circuit, which had been started so well by Dr. Baird and Rev. Wm. Hunt. I learned a lot from Dr. Swallen and others on those first early trips. I was deeply impressed by Dr. Swallen's friendships with the Koreans, especially with his helpers. They just loved to come to our room and talk with him for hours, sometimes after a late evening service. He always seemed to enjoy talking with them individually. It wasn't always too easy for me, because we usually walked from 6 to 10 miles a day or more. And I was mighty tired and sleepy, sitting on the warm Korean floor. But the Koreans insisted on trying to talk to me or to Dr. Swallen.

I was also impressed by Dr. Swallen's Bible reading and prayer habits. Clearly, he loved to read his Bible and to pray, more I'm afraid than I had ever done. I can never over-stress Dr. Swallen's prayer life and preaching zeal, - not only in the pulpit but day by day, on the road. He was an intensely practical man and outstandingly interested in helping the Koreans in every way he could. I think of him now, not only as a missionary, but as a farmer, and especially as an orchard man. There must be a better word for it, but I can't think of it now. He was eager to help the Koreans have fruit and to raise better crops. It was apparent to all of us that this was a wonderful orchard country, excellent for apples. But the Koreans

had only small, poor-tasting apples. Perhaps for that reason they had never planted many trees. Anyway, Dr. Swallen got in touch with Stark Brothers, Missouri, and ordered some good apple trees, and other fruit trees, for himself and for the Koreans. By the time we arrived he had a good orchard on his place in Pyeng Yang, and we enjoyed delicious American apples. He helped me and my Korean helper to put in an orchard, too, and to prune and care for the trees. With keen eyes and a sharp knife, he could discover and get rid of the borers that would have killed the tree.

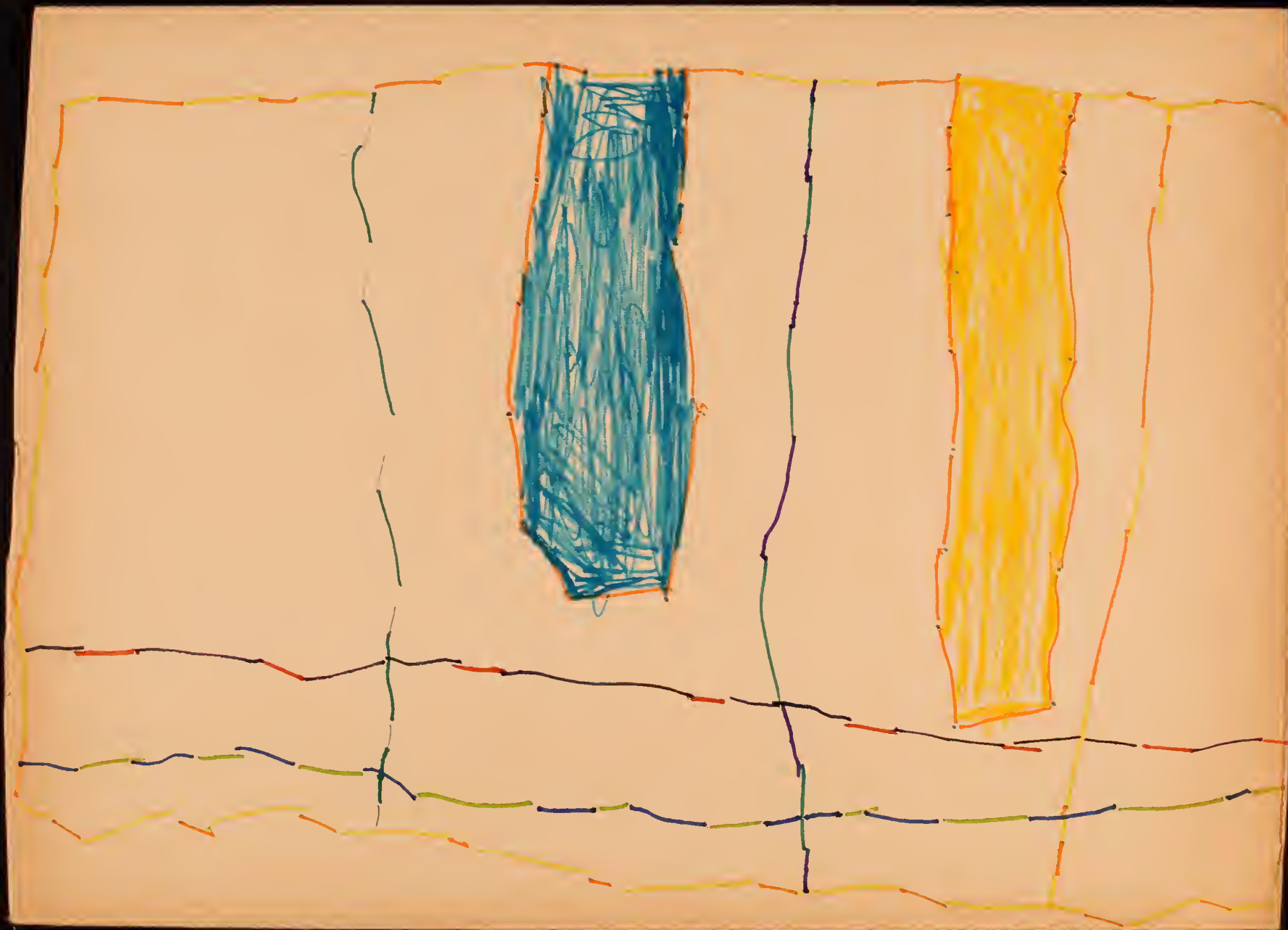
I don't know how many kinds of apples we had on our place, there in Pyeng Yang, 6 or 8 kinds, anyway. The most hardy and delicious were the Baldwin and the Jonathan, and a wonderful Bellflower, that was loaded early with the most delicious fruit you ever tasted. It makes my mouth water to even think about it now. We would fill a big bin with apples in the cellar for winter use, enough so that our children could eat all they wanted without question, and share with our friends, too.

The most outstanding thing in my mind now about Dr. Swallen, was the great bulwark he was to the whole Station in the ordeal and struggle we had with the Japanese Government in the Shinto Shrine controversy. They seemed determined to ~~compell~~ all the Koreans to become Japanese and to bow&worship their Sun goddess. The Christians didn't seem to care whether they were put in prison, or had to suffer, but they refused to bow before the Shrine. This was regarded by the Japanese as a terrible crime.....

God has given faith to the Korean Church.....

I want to express special thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Swallen for their wonderful faith and prayer life in our time of great suffering in Korea and I know God has answered their prayers for the Koreans they loved so dearly.

I have reserved for the last item Dr. Swallen's Bible Correspondence Course. It is remarkable how some missionaries can pick up a job, that no one else is doing and make of it an outstanding life work. That is just what Dr. and Mrs. Swallen did with the Bible Course over a period of many decades. I know that hundreds and thousands of ~~xxx~~ Bible-hungry Koreans from all over Korea realized that the Course was just what~~x~~ they needed, and so subscribed for it and studied it, took the examination and graduated. This strengthened the church immensely, and developed church leaders. God only knows how much this Bible study steadied the Korean church and helped it become the great evangelistic church it is, and finally helped it to go through the great Shinto Shrine persecution. I don't remember how Mrs. Swallen preached or worked, but I do know that as Dr. Swallen was away from home so much, he could not have carried on the Bible Course and other ministeries with so much daily attention to callers and correspondence with so many thousands of people, without able constant help that Mrs. Swallen gave in the home. She had such a love for the Lord and for His Word that she was well qualified to assist in making the Bible Course a great spirit and blessing and power throughout all Korea. What precious, precious memories! Edith and I and our 4 children have loved them as our closest neighbors and friends for nearly 50 years. I stood in our yard in Pyeng Yang in 1947 beside ~~the~~ ^{our} ruined home, and thought of all the homes there, most of all the Swallen Home.....



FROM JAMES MORRISON

TO GRANDFATHER

Mason-Alert

*Notes for a book in my smaller
numbered*

*16
14
30*

SMART

LINE

WRITING
TABLET

25c



2097

8 x 10 Plain

I am pleased to hear from Olive Duallen that she and her
sisters plan to get out a book of "Precious memories" of their father and
mother something like my recently published little booklet, "Precious memories"
to Samuel & Moffitt.

Olive has written asking me to read her some of my memorials of her parents
though I cannot attempt to write ~~the~~ books or booklets of my happy memories
of all my dear Plymouth fellow missionaries, as much as I would like to do so
will try to comply with Olive's request because my heart compels me to.

My acquaintance with Dr. Walter J. Swallen began ^{any} back in 1900,
when I was a student in McCormick Seminary in Chicago

Dr. Swallen then his first foray read a five address one day to the
McCormick Seminary student and faculty
I heard him with interest, because he was a good speaker with inherent ability to
tell us, and because he put his heart into his address as they always did when they preached.

The learning offered to some of us in the graduate class to come out to Korea
and help in their day of great opportunity.
I was deeply moved but said to myself, "I would like to go, but that next for
me. Because I seemed to have little linguistic ability and did not ^{know} study ~~the~~ Latin
or Greek or Hebrew or Chinese in the Seminary, I said to myself, "Surely if God would
me to be a foreign missionary he would have given me more ability, as my layed study than I
had had."

So with only a brief word of appreciation to our great speaker, I went to my room and
studied to prepare for the morning session.
Perhaps a hour later, some body knocked at my door, without rising I called
"Come in. Come in" - and who should enter but our tall, red-headed ^{missionary} speaker -
"missionary speaker from Korea -"

He came right to me and said "A Bless why don't you come out
to Korea we need you, your classroom has let me advise you. "Godwits
it was some for him to recommend a classroom that to volunteer themselves -"

"Why, Dr. Swallen," I replied, "as far as the hardship or cost, I would
I think I would ^{rather like than} like to go, But that language, I mean I could never
learn the Korean language" - which I knew was an awful compound language
doubtly like the Chinese.

"What makes you say that," he answered, "Have you failed in your
Latin or Greek or Hebrew?"
"No," I said, "I have managed to pass ^{some} but I haven't enjoyed it."
"Well," he said, "I failed in Hebrew in the Academy, but I have
learned to talk fairly well in Korean and I know you can too."
He talked quite a while, but he failed to convince me.

- But for days afterward, I could get the matter off of my
mind & conscience.
One thing was clear to me. I could not afford to make the
mistake of staying in ~~the~~ ^{the} Seminary if God ^{wanted} wanted me to be a foreign ^{preaching} But
missionary - I asked ^{him} to guide me ^{seriously} and earnestly - ~~and~~
I realize that it would be hard for ^{me} to guide a man who just
stood still. If he went forward ~~God~~ ^{God} could easily slip him or ^{me} ^{from} ^{him}

61

at an hour, must you of all the scholars & ... will be a little ... on ...
But thank God we had that ...

... when the schools were closed - ...
gather in part of the ... with ...
affairs the ...

It was very kind for me because the ...
... ..

the ... - the ...
I went out and ...
and I asked him to ...
... ..

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... ..
... ..

The
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... ..
... ..

I have

← B.C.

Belle St.

Property of Mrs. Harold Voelkel
(Gertrude Swallen)

1420 Santo Domingo, Duarte, Calif.
91010

Letters of Mrs. W.L.Swallen,
Missionary to Korea from
1892 to 1941

the lovingkindness of our Heavenly Father she was healed and recovered. How happy we were to move into our house on the hill! It was formerly a Korean government building. For 32 years our family lived in this home. Here our 2 younger daughters were born, Esther Lucile and Mary Ella. It was a barren hill on which our house stood, and many thought we were foolish to choose such a house site, but with effort it has become transformed into a place of beauty adorned with trees and flowers and bushes. My recreation often consisted in planting trees and caring for them. Thus we soon had many varieties of fruit and vegetables growing in our garden. The Koreans, attracted by the sight of colorful red apples and other kinds of fruit, began asking for cuttings, which we gave them, also showing them how to care for the young trees. Gradually fruit orchards began to appear here and there throughout the country.

I found the work in Pyeng Yang considerably different from that of Wonsan, which had been turned over to the Canadian Mission. And yet both consisted largely of country evangelism. At Wonsan I left 14 or 15 places where Christians were studying the Bible, and at least 10 people were ready for baptism, among whom was Ki Yi Kipoon, one of the first seven to graduate from our Theological Seminary in Pyeng Yang, and who later was appointed to preach the Gospel on the island of Quelpart (Chey-ju-do) At the age of 73 he retired from the active ministry having served as pastor longer than any other Korean pastor up to that time.

Upon coming to Pyeng Yang we were assigned work in the An-ak district where I labored for 4 years. One of my helpers there later became the greatest evangelist Korea has known, Kim Ik-hyun, a strong preacher and an ardent soul-winner and man of fervent prayer. In 1904 Chairyung station was opened and An-ak was included in its field. We were then appointed to the Western Circuit from Pyeng Yang to the western coast. Dr. Moffet and Dr. Baird had begun work there and I found about 16 churches and groups of Christians. These grew in membership, and others were added, and now after 40 years the churches number 60, beside some small groups of Christians. Many Korean helpers labored with me during these years, faithful brethren some of whom have already gone to their heavenly reward. It was a joyous and blessed experience to co-labor with these earnest, consecrated workers. Life was sweet in the wonderful task of winning souls to Christ, preaching the Gospel, serving the Lord as He led, sharing fellowship in Him. It is my joy still to meet these brethren who continue to come and see me; some are with the Lord now, and sad to say some few like Demas have forsaken the Lord "having loved this present world."

During all these years I felt it to be unwise to spend all of my time in country work, so I was led to give half my time to the country churches and half in translation work, preparing proper and helpful Christian literature for the Koreans. I also took my part in teaching in the Seminary and Bible Institute until increasing deafness made classroom work too hard. Among the widely used original volumes which the Lord has used me to write and which are used all over Korea in Bible teaching are "Old Testament History" which has appeared in many editions, "The Life of Christ" and the "Life of our Lord" (a harmony of the gospels) which have been reprinted many times. From standard authors the following translations were, "What the Bible teaches" by R.A.Torrey, "Christian Ethics", Selections by Gregory, "Bible Outlines, "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth"; and the following commentaries, - "Light on Revelation". "Light on Daniel", "Exodus", "I and II Peter", and "I and II Corinthians".

The need for Bible study in the homes of Korea impressed my wife and me as most urgent. Accordingly we were led to prepare the Bible Correspondence Course in the Old and New Testament, which have been widely studied. Over 17,000 have enrolled and as many as 8,000 have completed the course. Since so many have finished this first course, in recent years I have prepared a "Higher Bible Course" for deeper study, intended for those who have already completed the first course. We trust that both these courses

A Brief Autobiography by William L. Swallen
Pyeng Yang, Korea -

I have been asked to briefly state the facts of my life. I wish to say first of all that whatever I have been able to do has been done by God's grace and for His glory. I praise Him for all His goodness to us during the 48 years of our sojourn in Korea, for His faithfulness in fulfilling His promises to us, and for His love constantly showered upon us in innumerable ways year by year.

On March 24, 1859, I was born the youngest son in a family of nine children, to Christian and Elizabeth Shory Swallen, on a farm near Paris, Ohio. My grandfather, Christian Zwahlen, had come over from Switzerland with his family many years before. My parents feared God and taught their children to believe in God and honor Him. At my mother's knee as a little boy I learned to pray to God and to love Him as she did. It was my ambition to go further in school than our little country school of those early days, but the hard work of the farm kept me continually busy. One day during the harvest I happened to break a finger and I could no longer take my share of the work. I was then permitted to do as I had long desired and attend a nearby school. After securing a primary education by addenting school in the winter and farming in the summer, I taught school for a few years. I attended the Normal School at Ada, Ohio, and from there went to Wooster College, Ohio and was graduated in 1889, and from McCormich Seminary in 1892. At Ada I had met a beautiful young woman, Sallie Willison Fisher (a widow) who consented to go to Korea with me as a missionary. We were married on her graduation day from Ohio Wesleyan University in June 1892 and that November we sailed for Korea, appointed by the Presbyterian Board as missionaries in evangelistic work. The daughter of a godly farmer, Oliver Willison, she was the ninth of a family of ten children, born on August 16, 1863, she had persevered against many difficulties in securing an education, as I had. We were married in the president's home and that Fall started forth to Korea.

While in Seminary I had been much impressed by a message on Korea by Dr. Horace G. Underwood who was on his first furlough. After much prayer and consideration I was led to decide to give my life to God for work in Korea. It was late in November when we reached Seoul, and late at night as we came to the city wall. We had feared the gates would be shut at sun-down, but kind friends there had succeeded in gaining permission to keep them open for us. Soon we were in the warm shelter and welcome hospitality of these missionaries who had preceded us by a few years.

For a year and a half we lived in Seoul learning to speak and to read the Korean language. It loomed before us as a most difficult task. Our first daughter, Olivette RoAnna, was born during the heat of our first August on the field. That was a great joy! That year I experienced my first trip into the country, traveling with Mr. Moffett and Mr. Lee to Pyeng Yang, preaching the Gospel to all who would stop to listen. From Pyeng Yang I went with a Korean helper to various country places, including Sorai village where I remained a few days among a group of early Christians, and returned to Seoul.

In the Spring of 1894 we were transferred with Dr. and Mrs. Gale to Wonsan on the east coast. We continued our language study there, and made many trips into the country as opportunity afforded. At that time I dressed in Korean clothes, but was told that my reddish beard spoiled my appearance as a Korean. Often I traveled through snow and wintry winds into the northern province of Ham-heung. At one time I was very ill with a fever; no doctor was near but my dear wife cared for me with all the skill of a nurse, and by God's tender mercy I was restored to health. Two more children were born in Wonsan, a son James Wilbur, and a daughter Gertrude Elizabeth.

In the Spring of 1899 our Mission transferred us to Pyeng Yang in the interior, a recently opened station. We made the 6-day trip overland by sedan chair, pack-pony and I on my bicycle. While our home was being built we lived in a low, unhealthy Korean house in the Moffett yard, and during the heat of that summer our baby Gertrude was very sick for many weeks, but in

will give to very many Koreans the important and regular study of the whole Bible in their homes which is so very urgently needed in these days.

The teaching of the Bible has always been my greatest delight. We praise God for the privilege of giving forth the glorious Gospel in all its precious truths, in all its fulness, to so many people of Korea during so many years. (48 years in all) I thank God that the Korean Christians have received the Bible so well, have loved to study it, and to know it better so as to live by it. If every Christian will live according to the light of the Word and testify to the truthfulness and benefits of the Bible teachings as well as they have received it, many more will be led to Christ, and God will be glorified, and multitudes will be saved to a glorious future life in Heaven.

Although it is now necessary now for us to leave this our adopted land (1942), our friends so dear to us, all the associations of so many happy years, and the Korean Christians who are as beloved children in the Lord and brethren in Christ, we only go because God is definitely leading us to return to America. We shall miss seeing you, but we shall never cease to love you. We can no longer exhort you face to face to keep true to God during these difficult days, but we shall ever pray earnestly for you. We shall not be able to express our love to you but we want you to know that in our hearts that love will forever be warm. Soon we shall be crossing the ocean to find a new home in our United States. But far more joyous will be the glad day when the Lord calls us to cross the "Jordon river" to our Heavenly Home, there to be forever with Him. There we shall meet one another at the feet of Jesus Whom we love and Whom we serve.

Yours continually in His glad service,

W.L.Swallen.

From the Farm to the Mission Field

- brief sketch of the life of Sallie Willison Swallen of Korea

In a small schoolhouse in the farming section of central Ohio a small group of children were being taught a geography lesson. The teacher was pointing to the Pacific ocean on the map to show that it lay between America and China, and that Japan was a curving island and India a large peninsula located in the south of Asia. A tall, strong girl was watching closely with eager eyes. "And what is this small country?" she asked as her finger touch a small peninsula near Japan. The teacher looked at the name on the map and found the tiny letters, "Korea", he said, and the island below it in the China Sea is Formosa, and farther down you can see the Philippine islands. Millions of people live in these far-away lands, people who do not know our God."

"I'd like to see what they are like," thought the girl. "I wish they knew about God".

The teacher that day planted a seed of truth in her heart that gradually grew into a desire to serve God in some place where He was not known. But first she knew she must learn many things and prepare herself to become a teacher.

"Father," she hesitated as she asked him, "may I please attend the Normal school? I want to learn more. I want to become a teacher."

"No, of course not," he answered her. "You are needed to help here on the farm. Your mother can't spare you."

Sallie was the 9th of ten children in the Willison family, busy from dawn till dark with the many duties of home and farm-life. But the idea that she should study and learn to become a teacher persisted in spite of such discouragement and lack of opportunity. A longing to be able to tell people far away about the great God never left her. She prayed about it earnestly. One day a little lamb was left motherless and her father brought it in and gave it to her to raise. "Here, Sallie," he said, "you can have this lamb if you'll take care of it." How carefully she kept it warm, and gave it milk from a bottle and saw it grow stronger until it began a grown sheep. Even though it was a dearly loved pet, she decided she must sell it, for this was the chance that would make her dream come true. Bringing the money to her father she looked at him steadily, saying, "Now Father, I have enough money to study one term at the Normal School. May I go? I must become a teacher." He could not refuse her this time.

Persuading her youngest sister to go with her, they started off happily for the Normal School at Ada, Ohio. How exciting it was for them to enroll in classes, buy the needed books, meet new friends, and begin to learn many wonderful lessons!

When the term ended they each found a small country school in which they could teach, and saving their money carefully they attended school the following term, and continued their education in this way until they were graduated. Sallie heard a missionary from Alaska tell about the people in that far northland and wondered if God was calling her to go there.

"Anywhere", she whispered in prayer, "where ever you lead me, Lord." During the Spring of her Senior year at Ohio Wesleyan university a tall handsome gentleman with reddish beard called to see her. They had met at the Normal school, but since that time she had married a professor at Ada and in six months had become a widow and with determination had continued her education at the university. William Swallen had also been reared on a farm and had overcome many obstacles to a coveted education, and was now in his Senior year at McCormick Seminary in Chicago.

Their renewed friendship ripened into love as they discovered their mutual desire to serve the Lord as foreign missionaries.

"I have heard a missionary from Korea," he told her, "who is seeking many missionaries to come there and tell the people about God."

"Korea, -Korea", she remembered the long-ago geography lesson.

"Oh yes, its a tiny peninsula on the map, near Japan, near China. Do you want to go there?"

"I've been praying about it," he answered. "I fear the strange language ^{may} will be very difficult, but I am willing to go. And you? would you be willing to go there with me?" She smiled and blushed as she replied softly, "Yes, yes, I would like very much to go to Korea,"

And so they were married on her commencement day in the president's home in June 1892. That November they set out on the long journey, having been appointed by the Presbyterian Board for Korea. It was by ship, a slow steamer that took 6 weeks to cross the Pacific, and then from Japan to Korea and to the port of Seoul in the Yellow sea, and then by a very small boat up the Han river as far as Mapo. In those days Seoul was completely surrounded by a stone wall and the city gates were shut and locked at sun-down every day. Missionary friends met the Swallens at the river, and provided a sedan chair for the young wife to ride in, while the men walked on rapidly to the city hoping to arrive at the South Gate before it was closed for the night.

Sallie was very much alone in a strange land as she rode in the sedan chair in the gathering twilight and knew not one word of the language. When the chair coolies put down the chair in order to rest and smoke their long bamboo pipes, she was frightened and prayed silently for God's protection. The promise, "He careth for you", brought a measure of peace.

Darkness came early on that November evening as they neared the city of Seoul and found the gates still open and as if welcoming them to their future home. How good to have the kindness and warmth of loving welcome from the missionaries in whose home they were sheltered and given hospitality those first few days! And how interesting those many experiences of the first year in Korea! Sometimes they would watch from behind a curtained window when the king and queen passed by in courtly procession through the narrow streets of Seoul. The customs and life of the people gave much for them to write about to their families back in America. And letters from home meant everything to them on days of loneliness. Every day they studied the Korean language with a teacher, trying to learn to speak and read the "Han-kul" so that they could teach the people. Sallie felt sorry for the women when she saw they had to be entirely covered with a cloak as they walked the streets. Most of the time the ladies of the higher class stayed indoors or within the courtyard of their homes. "How different life will be for them," she thought, "when they know the love of God and can read His Word for themselves!" And this she purposed to teach them.

The following summer their first baby, a little girl was born in the heat of August. They named her Olivette RoAnna. Then the Mission asked them to locate in Wonsan on the east coast. Their home over-looked the harbor and the sea, and they loved the natural beauty surrounding them. But the poverty of the people, and their ignorance, and frequent epidemics of disease were a constant challenge. Vegetables and fruit in their garden, and a cow to provide milk aided their otherwise restricted diet. It was often hard to get necessary food they were used to, and when the baby became weak and ill they found they must go to Japan for medical help, until she was well again. Two more children were born in Wonsan, a son and a daughter. The winters were very cold, and the summers exceedingly hot. An epidemic of cholera was a frightening experience when hundreds of Koreans died. They could eat nothing from their garden or market without first boiling it.

The Mission decided to transfer the Swallens to Pyeng Yang, when the Wonsan area was assigned to the Canadian Mission. Moving overland by sedan chair, pack pony and bicycle took a week, spending nights in Korean inns on the way. Their new home in Pyeng Yang was a typical Korean building with tile roof, large pillars of wood, a wide porch, on a barren hill just inside the city wall. For 40 years this was to be their home.

As trees and flowers were planted, and a vegetables garden thrived, the hilltop home was surrounded by beauty. Two more daughters were born here. It was a happy home where music was a daily part of the family life, and where the sound of hymns and prayer was as regular^{ly} the routine of meals. The Koreans were always welcomed and loved.

In the South Gate church which was Will Swallen's responsibility, Sallie taught a Bible class for women, directed the Sunday school, and for many years taught a Teacher's Class, to prepare those who taught in the Sunday school. As the Bible Institute was established in the Station, Sallie took her part in the teaching of the women, and in spite of her many duties in the home, never neglected to share in the evangelistic work of the station. Aside from the city church work, there was the constant care of the many growing churches in the Western Circuit, the rural area from Pyeng Yang to the west coast, for which the Swallens felt deeply their responsibility. A personal Bible woman, Mrs. Suk Yoo-sil, worked faithfully with Sallie for many years, teaching in Bible classes and conferences for women, and assisting in the church and Sunday school work as it grew and expanded. Often they would go together to direct a week's conference in a country church to encourage the church women and assist them in winning unbelievers to Christ. Every winter all the Christians of the rural areas were urged to attend a week's Bible conference in the city, and during those days the women of the Western Circuit would be entertained to tea and cakes in the home of the Swallens. So many would come that the furniture had to be all moved out, so that the crowd of women, sitting on the floor, might all be accommodated.

The children of the missionary homes were taught in a little school-house, with teachers from America. When at times the teacher was ill, or unable to teach, the busy mother of five active children, would direct their lessons herself. And often she spent hours at the sewing machine making them clothes, especially as furlough time approached and it was necessary to prepare for a return visit to America.

Many orphans were cared for and loved and taught, and grew up to follow ^{her} the example of selfless devotion to the service of God. One little girl whose mother had worked as a cook in the Swallen home was bereft ~~by~~ the death of her mother at the age of 5 or 6. The Swallens arranged for her to be reared in the Salvation Army orphanage in Seoul, and gave her work in their home during summer vacations. When grown and married, she was constantly alert to the needs of the poor refugees, and through her urging a Day Nursery was established in Seoul that cares for some 60 children of working mothers in a depressed area of the city, caring for them all day long 6 days a week, and giving them a Christian kindergarden training that fixes good habits for life. It is named the Sallie Swallen Day Nursery, a tribute to a life of love. When her husband prepared and published a Bible Correspondence Course for the Koreans to study God's Word at home, Sallie was enthusiastic in her support of it, often urging pastors to encourage their church members to enroll in the course. She kept a generous supply of the books on hand to start willing people on the road to learning God's Word by regular study at home. When World War II was breaking like a furious storm upon the land, Dr. Swallen was already retired and over 80 years old. The Western Circuit had been turned over to two younger missionaries. Two daughters had returned as missionaries to Korea, and they rejoiced in a dozen grandchildren, all told. With war clouds gathering the State Dept. in USA required all missionaries to return to America a year before Pearl Harbor, unless prevented for a special reason. The Swallens decided to make St. Petersburg, Florida their home and with them went their oldest daughter who cared for them until her mother was called Home in 1945 and her father in 1954.

One of many hymns written by Dr. Swallen, "Blessed Hope", expresses the love they had for that Heavenly Home where they are now rejoicing in the Presence of the Lord Whom they served so faithfully and devotedly for so long.

